

*Application No. 10/542,440
Amendment dated April 24, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2007*

*Docket No.3410-0107PUS1
Art Unit.2834
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1-4 have been labeled Conventional Art.

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1-9 are amended, and claims 10-13 are added. Claims 1 and 12 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Drawings

FIGS. 1-4 have been labeled Conventional Art.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 15, 2007, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO form filed therewith.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended merely to correct a typographical error on page

1. No new matter has been entered.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a)

Claim 1, 3, 5, 6, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Nagano et al. (JP 09-116205);

claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano et al. in view of Asada et al. (JP 09-83032); and

claims 4, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano et al. in view of Dai et al. (U.S. 5,892,318).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 12

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a non-symmetric drive type piezoelectric ceramic transformer, including *inter alia* "wherein a height (H) of the first, second, and third zones is substantially equal to 2.72 mm".

In addition, independent claim 12 has been added herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a non-symmetric drive type piezoelectric ceramic transformer, including *inter alia* "wherein a height (H) of the first, second, and third zones is substantially equal to 2.72 mm, and a width (W) of the first, second, and third zones is substantially equal to 6.0 mm".

Support for the novel combination of features set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 12 can be seen in the application as originally filed, for example see FIG. 7.

By contrast, as can be seen in Nagano et al. paragraph [0026], this document merely discloses $W = 7.5$ mm and $T = 2.0$ mm. Accordingly, Nagano et al. cannot teach or suggest the combination of features set forth in each of claim 1 and 12 of the present invention.

While not cited in the rejection of independent claim 1, no combination of Asada et al and Dai et al. can make up for the deficiencies of Nagano et al. to reject independent claims 1 and 12.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 12 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nagano et al., Asada et al., and Dai et al.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2-9 have been amended to place them in better form, and dependent claims 10, 11, and 3 have been added to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.


All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380

for
P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JMS:CTT:ktf 

Attachment: One sheet of Replacement Drawings